

Satcher, in his recent report, "Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General," that the rate of major clinical depression and the incidence of suicide among senior citizens is alarmingly high. This report cites that about one-half of patients relocated to nursing homes from the community are at greater risk for depression. Moreover, up to 37% of older adults treated in primary care settings experience symptoms of depression. At the same time, the Surgeon General emphasizes that depression "is not well-recognized or treated in primary care settings," and calls attention to the alarming fact that older people have the highest rates of suicide in the U.S. population. Contrary to what is widely believed, suicide rates actually increase with age, and, as the Surgeon General points out, "depression is a foremost risk factor for suicide in older adults."

Clearly, Mr. President, our nation must take steps to ensure that mental health care is easily and readily available under the Medicare program. S. 3233, the Medicare Mental Health Modernization Act, takes an important first step in that direction. It is time to take this potential fatal illness seriously. I believe we must do everything we can to make effective treatments available in a timely manner for older adults and others covered by Medicare, and help prevent relapse and recurrence once mental illness is diagnosed.

The mental health community is very aware of the problems in the Medicare system and is fighting to improve it. I want to thank those groups that have supported this initial effort to improve mental health care in the Medicare program, particularly the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) for their leadership role in fighting for improved mental health care coverage for seniors under Medicare. Their support joins that of the other major mental health groups mentioned in my earlier statement, as well as the Association for the Advancement of Psychology, the Clinical Social Work Federation, the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, the International Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services, and the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare. I want to applaud the determination of these groups for stepping forward to fight for the rights of those with mental illnesses, and their commitment to improving mental health services funded by the Medicare program.

HONORING THE MARINE CORPS 225TH BIRTHDAY

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, On November 10th, we honored the 225th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. For more than two centuries, the United States Marine Corps has exemplified the highest virtues of loyalty, service, and sacrifice. From the Barbary coast to the far reaches of the Pacific, in the jungles of Vietnam and

across the vast expanse of the Arabian desert, America's Marines have shown the world the meaning of "Semper Paratus."

Through the long march of our history, few military organizations have been held in such high esteem as the United States Marine Corps. Our Marine Corps are men and women of great character. They are smart, tough, dedicated, and faithful, truly the best America has to offer. For 225 years, they have stood for all that is great about this nation: honor, courage, and commitment. Their values, sense of courage, and quiet, steadfast character remain timeless and valuable commodities for an age in which our Nation's interests face considerable new threats.

Throughout their great history, Marines protected America's interests, struggled against foes who attempted to do our country harm, and remained at the forefront of our Nation's efforts to maintain global peace and stability. In hundreds of distant lands, from Nicaragua to Lebanon to Somalia, Marines restored and maintained order, aided people in distress, provided protection for the weak, and upheld the values that have come to define our country on the world stage. Many made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country, and we honor their memory.

In my hometown of New Orleans, we are fortunate enough to be rich in Marine Corps history and tradition. We are the proud home of the Marine Forces Reserve Headquarters where Major General Mize commands more than 104,000 Reserve Marines all across the United States. We are also the home of the last Medal of Honor winner in the Vietnam War, General James E. Livingston. Despite the fact that then-Captain Livingston was wounded a third time and unable to walk, he steadfastly remained in a dangerously exposed area, supervising the evacuation of casualties. Only when assured of the safety of his men did he allow himself to be evacuated. His valor on the battlefield epitomizes the spirit of the Marine Corps.

As we set out in this new century, the importance of our Marine Corps has never been more clear. Tomorrow, as today and for generations past, the razor sharp readiness of the United States Marine Corps serves as a beacon to America's friends and a warning to our enemies, promising swift action, great victories and richer traditions yet to come.

On this day, I offer warmest regards to all who have worn the eagle, globe and anchor, and to the families who also serve by supporting them. You represent all that is wonderful about our Nation.

HELPING SOUTH DAKOTA COMMUNITIES FIGHT CRIME

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, throughout the past year, I continued working with local and state community leaders and law enforcement offi-

cials all across South Dakota in an effort to find solutions to the most pressing problems facing the people of my state. A number of issues that Congress can address were brought to my attention through these meetings, and I continue to find this statewide dialog extremely valuable on further developing a community approach to reducing crime. I've worked on a bipartisan basis with my colleagues in the United States Senate to help South Dakota communities get the resources they need to address the crime problems they face.

COMMUNITY POLICING AND THE COPS PROGRAM

Community Policing has proven effective in reducing crime rates nationwide, and I am optimistic that such efforts in our small towns will prove equally successful. As you know, the majority of potential offenders, both juvenile and adult, in our state are still within reach of rehabilitation and support to put them back on track as productive, law abiding citizens.

I believe the Congress must assist state and local efforts to crack down on crime by continuing federal support through funding for localized programs. One of the most successful programs in South Dakota has been the COPS program. Since 1995, the COPS program has allowed South Dakota communities to hire 290 new police officers. In addition, the COPS program has expanded recently to help school districts hire police resource officers to deal with youth violence in South Dakota schools. The COPS in School's program has committed \$1.25 million to South Dakota communities.

Although the COPS program has helped reduce the overall crime rate nationwide and has been extremely popular with local law enforcement in our state, I find myself once again working to make sure the program is adequately funded. I support the Administration's request of \$1.3 billion for the COPS program to hire 7,000 new police officers nationwide, provide local law enforcement with advanced crime fighting technology, hire more community prosecutors, expand crime prevention programs, enhance school safety programs, and assist law enforcement on Indian Reservations. At this level of funding, South Dakota would receive an estimated \$734,000 next year to help fight crime in our communities and in Indian Country.

However, the Senate and House Leadership's inability to pass the annual appropriations bills has put COPS funding in jeopardy. I will continue to work with my colleagues to increase funding for this critical program and am hopeful that common sense will prevail over partisan gamesmanship on this crucial issue.

THE KYL-JOHNSON FEDERAL PRISONER HEALTH CARE COPAYMENT ACT

Senator JON KYL (R-AZ) and I introduced two years ago a bill to require federal prisoners to pay a nominal fee when they initiate certain visits for medical attention. Fees collected from